



#04-051

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Highway Info – 1-800-427-7623
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo>

Caltrans Honors Adopt a Highway Volunteers

REDDING -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Adopt-a-Highway Program honored two local groups with "Golden Hardhat" awards for outstanding efforts in keeping our local state highways clean as part of the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Ammirati's Market – Adopted two, 2-mile sections of Interstate 5 in Shasta County

Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers – Adopted a 2-mile section of State Route 97 in Siskiyou County

Representatives from Caltrans and Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa's office presented certificates of appreciation and "Golden Hardhats" to Ammirati's Market and the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers, honoring the groups as Volunteer of the Year for 2003. Caltrans Supervisors select winners, from the areas where a stretch of state highway has been adopted.

The Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers are a non-profit organization of dedicated snowmobilers who work together to promote the safety and pleasure of snowmobiling for everyone's greater enjoyment of the sport. They work to retain public lands for multiple use. The club is involved in scholarship programs, community service, volunteer programs and contributes and works closely with the local Forest Service and the State Off-Highway Vehicle Program. They joined the Adopt-a-Highway program in 1997 and average 10 volunteers per cleanup.

"They are by far the best group I have in my area. Eileen always notifies me before going out. They pick up their section on a very regular basis. They go out and pick-up even more than they are required to," said Judy Crawford, Caltrans Supervisor for Grasslake. "They take a lot of pride in their area and it shows. I wish all of our groups were like theirs."

Ammirati's Market adopted two consecutive, two-mile sections of Interstate 5 in Shasta County by the town of Castella where the market is located. The first adoption began in 1993 and the market picked up a second, two-mile section in 1998.

"Ammirati's consistently does a fantastic job in keeping their section sparkling clean," said Rick Resh, Caltrans Maintenance Supervisor in Gibson.

In District 2 there are 356 Adoption groups which do litter pick up, wildflower plantings, vegetation control, tree plantings and clean Park-N-Ride areas. These groups take care of more than 1250 miles of State roadway in the eight counties within District 2. There are currently 482 miles of roadway available for adoption in the district.

Caltrans launched the Adopt-A-Highway Program in October of 1989 and today there are more than 4,200 adoptions statewide, representing 40,000 participants, with waiting lists for prime locations. Of those adoptions, 3,950 are litter removal groups, which clean litter from approximately 7,850 miles of highway, more

than half of the State's highway system. Seventy-five percent of the groups are volunteers and 25% are sponsors who hire contractors to perform the work.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this media advisory, photos and clipart are available on the internet at the following web address: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm



Pictured from left: Brian Crane, District Director Caltrans District 2; Eileen Maier, President of the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers; Dick Cowardin, Secretary of the Mt. Shasta Sno-Mobilers; Saedra Nodlan, Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator for Caltrans District 2; Willie Preston, Field Representative for Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa and Russ Wenham, Deputy District Director Caltrans District 2.